



# FEMA

## **Kenneth O. Burris: Acting Director of Operations**

Kenneth O. Burris was appointed Acting Director of Operations January 2004. In this position, Mr. Burris is responsible for implementing policies and procedures on behalf of the Under Secretary and overseeing the day-to-day response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness activities of FEMA, part of the new Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Burris previously served as Regional Director of FEMA's Region 4. As Regional Director, he was responsible for coordinating FEMA mitigation, preparedness and disaster response and recovery activities in: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Before accepting this post, Mr. Burris had served as the first Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Fire Administration since September 1999. Burris oversaw the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Fire Administration, including the National Fire Academy, and serves as the primary advisor to the FEMA Director and the USFA Administrator on overall operations and management of the fire administration.

Before joining FEMA, Mr. Burris had served as a firefighter for more than 22 years, and had been the fire chief in Marietta, Georgia, since 1992. He is credited with applying innovative techniques and strong leadership to that department, which serves as a national model.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Burris holds a BS degree in Safety and Fire Protection Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati, where he graduated cum laude. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration at Kennesaw University.

Burris has held senior positions with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and is a past president of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs.

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